



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Cajuns for Bayou Teche announce Bayou Teche cleanup

BATON ROUGE – The Department of Environmental Quality supports local programs and organizations that take voluntary steps to protect the environment. One community organization, Cajuns for Bayou Teche, is dedicated to preserving and protecting the habitat along Bayou Teche in St. Martin Parish. The group is organizing a cleanup effort on Saturday, Sept. 24, starting at 9:00 a.m. Volunteers are asked to meet at the Breaux Bridge boat launch, located behind St. Bernard School, 251 E. Bridge St. in Breaux Bridge.

The organization is comprised of volunteers who work to haul debris out of Bayou Teche in an ongoing effort to clean and restore the bayou to its natural aesthetic. The organization is in need of boats and volunteers to assist in removing domestic trash, various discarded white goods and other large items from the bayou. Organizer Blake Couvillion is asking for assistance from citizens who can donate their time and motor boats to help with the cleanup effort.

“Cajuns for Bayou Teche is continuing its effort to restore and maintain the banks of Bayou Teche in Breaux Bridge. We have been able to retrieve nearly forty tons of trash and debris from its banks to date,” said Couvillion. “It is very important that we keep our momentum in this project so that we can ensure that future generations get to enjoy this historic bayou in Cajun Country.”

“Cajuns for Bayou Teche has made a tremendous impact in their ongoing efforts to clean up the bayou,” said Emelise Cormier, DEQ Environmental Scientist Manager. “The group has strived to promote environmental stewardship in their community as they continue to initiate cleanup efforts that will improve the water quality and restore the fisheries habitat within the bayou.”

Volunteers with motor boats are needed to make this effort possible. Those with kayaks and canoes are also encouraged to help out. Lunch and drinks will be provided to all volunteers.

With the Second Annual *Tour du Teche* around the corner, Cajuns for Bayou Teche wants to ensure that the waterway is fit for residents and guests to have an enjoyable canoe and kayak race. Seneca Welding and Fabrication will be joining the effort and cleaning from the town of Cecilia to Poche Bridge in Breaux Bridge.

Cajuns for Bayou Teche is a program of the TECHE Project, a non-profit organization supporting programs concerning Bayou Teche. For more information, contact Blake Couvillion at 337-230-8596, or email: blake_couvillion@yahoo.com.